

# Opioid

## What are drugs of abuse ?

- ▶ A drug of abuse refers to any drug that alters mood or body function that can be habit - forming or addictive.

## What are opioids?

- ▶ Opioids are natural or synthetic derivatives of poppy plant.
- ▶ An opioid is any drug that activates the opioid receptors found in the brain, spinal cord and gut.



## Different kinds of opioids :-

- ▶ Natural :- Opium , morphine and codeine.
- ▶ Semi – synthetic :- Heroin
- ▶ Fully synthetic :- Pethidine, methadone

## Available form :-

- ▶ Sublingual tablet,
- ▶ Transdermal patch
- ▶ Powder form
- ▶ Injectable form

## Route of administration: -

- ▶ Heroin may be smoked, chased (inhaled) or injected ( intramuscular or intravenous).
- ▶ Morphine is usually injected intravenously.
- ▶ ‘Skin popping’ or subcutaneous administration is also available.

## **Effects of opioids :-**

### **1) Psychological effects :-**

- *Dependent users have short lived (less than a minute ) intense experience – “rush” i.e. profound euphoria, pain relief and dream like state.*
- *Excitation with convulsion may occur in higher doses.*
- *Apathy or dysphoria*
- *Impaired judgement*
- *Impaired performance*
- *Psychomotor agitation or retardation*
- *Impaired attention and memory*
- *Illusion or hallucination with insight*

### **2) Physical effects :-**

- *Pupillary constriction*
- *Pupillary dilation ( anoxic)*
- *Slurred speech*
- *Slow respiration*
- *Slow pulse*
- *Pulmonary edema*
- *Hypothermia*
- *Warm and flushed skin*
- *Nausea and vomiting*
- *Anorexia and constipation*
- *Delayed in ejaculation*

- ▶ *Stupor / coma*

### **What are the signs of withdrawal ?**

- ▶ *Abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, profuse sweating, dilated pupils, hyperactive bowel sounds, irritability, tremors, watery eyes,runny nose, yawning, diffuse muscle aches, body ache, sleep reduction, sadness and mood changes craving for the drug*

### **When does withdrawal start?**

- ▶ *Within few hours after the last administration such as heroin*
- ▶ *Peak between 48 and 72 hours after the last dose and subside after about a week.*

### **Health hazards of long term opiate use: -**

#### **1. Related to mode of self administration of drug – parenteral : -**

- ▶ *Cellulitis, thrombophlebitis, endocarditis, septicemia, hepatitis B and C , AIDS, pulmonary hypertension.*

#### **2. Related to mode of self administration of drug – inhalation : -**

- ▶ *Chronic hepatitis, respiratory infections*

#### **3. Socio- economic decline in living standard: -**

- ▶ *Nutritional deficiencies, multiple vitamin deficiencies.*

#### **4. Poor immune status : -**

- ▶ *Recurrent infections, pulmonary tuberculosis*

#### **5. Miscellaneous: -**

- ▶ *Overdose (accidental, deliberate ), accidental injury during intoxicated state.*